



2008 Sauvignon Blanc

Vintage Summary

The 2008 growing season began with an early bud break (early March) due to the extremely warm spring temperatures. Fluctuating temperatures included heat spikes, wind, and an unusual spring frost that plagued the Paso Robles area. A cool start to summer segued into consistent warm temperatures. The early bud break, combined with lowered yields from frost and a warm finish to summer created an early harvest for our Sauvignon Blanc. Both vineyards were harvested in the middle of August.

Vineyard Practices

Our Sauvignon Blanc is sourced from two vineyards in Paso Robles, one from the West Side (west of the 101 freeway) and one from the East Side (east of the 101 freeway). Each vineyard has its own microclimate and adds its personality to the blend. The vineyard on the west side has heavy limestone soils and was planted on the extreme hilltops in the Adelaide Mountains. The soils naturally de-glorify the vines, minimizing crop load and canopy, allowing the sun to gently brown the skins of the Sauvignon Blanc grapes. The result is great acidity and bright, citrus and tropical fruit flavors. The vineyard from the east side is planted in heavier, sandy soils that require proactive canopy management. Intensive shoot thinning and lateral removal from the vigorous block allow the sun to penetrate the clusters. This vineyard is picked at very low brix levels to retain natural acidity and add a grassy, herbal component to the blend.

Winemaking Practices

Our winemaking team began sampling the ripening grapes on a regular basis in mid August to track the evolution of the two vineyards. During the last few weeks before the grapes were picked, we tasted the skins, juice and seeds two to three times per week. We evaluated color, flavor, pH and Total Acidity (TA) to determine the exact harvest date.

A skilled crew handpicked the grapes into ½ ton picking bins. All our Sauvignon Blanc is whole cluster pressed. Both vineyards were picked and fermented separately. We inoculated the Sauvignon Blanc with M2 yeast, a strain used for its inherent citrus characteristics. The wine was 100% tank fermented to retain the crisp acidity and grassy flavors commonly found in Sauvignon Blanc. No malo-lactic fermentation took place and the wine never touched wood through its 5 month ageing process.

Tasting Notes

The 2008 Sauvignon Blanc has a light, translucent hue containing just light straw colored rim. The aroma combines multiple tropical characters including kiwi, grapefruit, fresh peeled tangerine, pineapple and orange zest. The entry is soft and layered, with Meyer lemon, melon and herbal characters that lead into a mid-palate combining bright, fresh acidity with a slightly creamy, balanced mouth feel. The finish is crisp, clean and perfect for warm days, summer nights, or side by side with fresh fish or fruit.

Technical Information

Tank ageing: 5 months in topped up stainless steel

Blended: 9/19/ 2008

Harvest dates: 8/15/ 2008 (West Paso Vineyard)

8/17/2008 (East Paso Vineyard)

Brix at Harvest: 22.1 to 23.6

Harvest method: 100% hand-harvested

Fermentation: 14 days with M2

pH: 3.18

Alcohol: 13.5%

Yeasts: M2

Suggested Retail Price \$15.00

Barrel replacement: No barrels

Racking: Once-Post Fermentation

Fining: none

Filtering: Sterile

Bottled: January 27, 2009

Closure: Stelvin Screw Cap

Total Acidity: 0.81g/100ml

Malolactic fermentation: None

Barrels: None